

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1001

Parsonage

413 Jefferson Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1875-1890

Private

The Parsonage at 413 Jefferson Avenue was constructed between 1875 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Attached to the St. James AUMP Church, this two-and-a-half story wood-frame Parsonage sits back from road. The Gothic Revival-style dwelling is three bays wide with a center entry and is capped with a side gable roof with a steeply pitched centered gable on the façade. The windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sashes with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. A triangular 1-light fixed window lights the centered gable. The dwelling features a boxed wood cornice, cornice returns in the gables, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The front Gothic Revival section is an addition to the gable roof two-story rear section. The rear block contains two interior parged brick chimneys with corbeled caps. Other alterations to the building include the replacement door on the facade, a shed-roof porch addition across the full-width of the façade, a shed roof 1-story addition on the rear elevation, and the asbestos shingle siding. The front porch is supported with metal posts, and the entry contains a single-leaf 1-light flush wood door.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1001

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Parsonage

other

2. Location

street and number 413 Jefferson Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Conference of African Union Methodist Protestant Church

street and number 1203 Newport Gap Pike

telephone Not Available

city, town Wilmington

state DE

zip code 19804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 9740 folio 487

city, town Towson

tax map 70A

tax parcel 464

tax ID number 920660220

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1001

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Attached to the St. James African Union First Colored Methodist Protestant Church, this two-and-a-half story wood frame Parsonage sits back from Jefferson Avenue. The Gothic Revival-style dwelling is three bays wide with a center entry and is capped with a side gable roof with a steeply pitched centered gable on the façade. The windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sashes with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. A triangular 1-light fixed window lights the centered gable. The dwelling features a boxed wood cornice, cornice returns in the gables, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The front Gothic Revival section is an addition to the gable roof two-story rear section. This section contains two interior parged brick chimneys with corbeled caps. Other alterations to the building include the replacement door on the facade, a shed-roof porch addition across the full-width of the façade, a shed roof 1-story addition on the rear elevation, and the asbestos shingle siding. The front porch is supported with metal posts, and the entry contains a single-leaf 1-light flush wood door.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1001

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1875-1890 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1875-1890

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Parsonage at 413 Jefferson Avenue was constructed between 1875 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1001

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.20 Acre	
Acreage of historical setting	Unknown	
Quadrangle name	Towson	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Parsonage is located at 413 Jefferson Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 464 since its construction between 1875 and 1890.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	December 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale
1 inch = 200 feet
1:2400
100 0 100 200 Feet

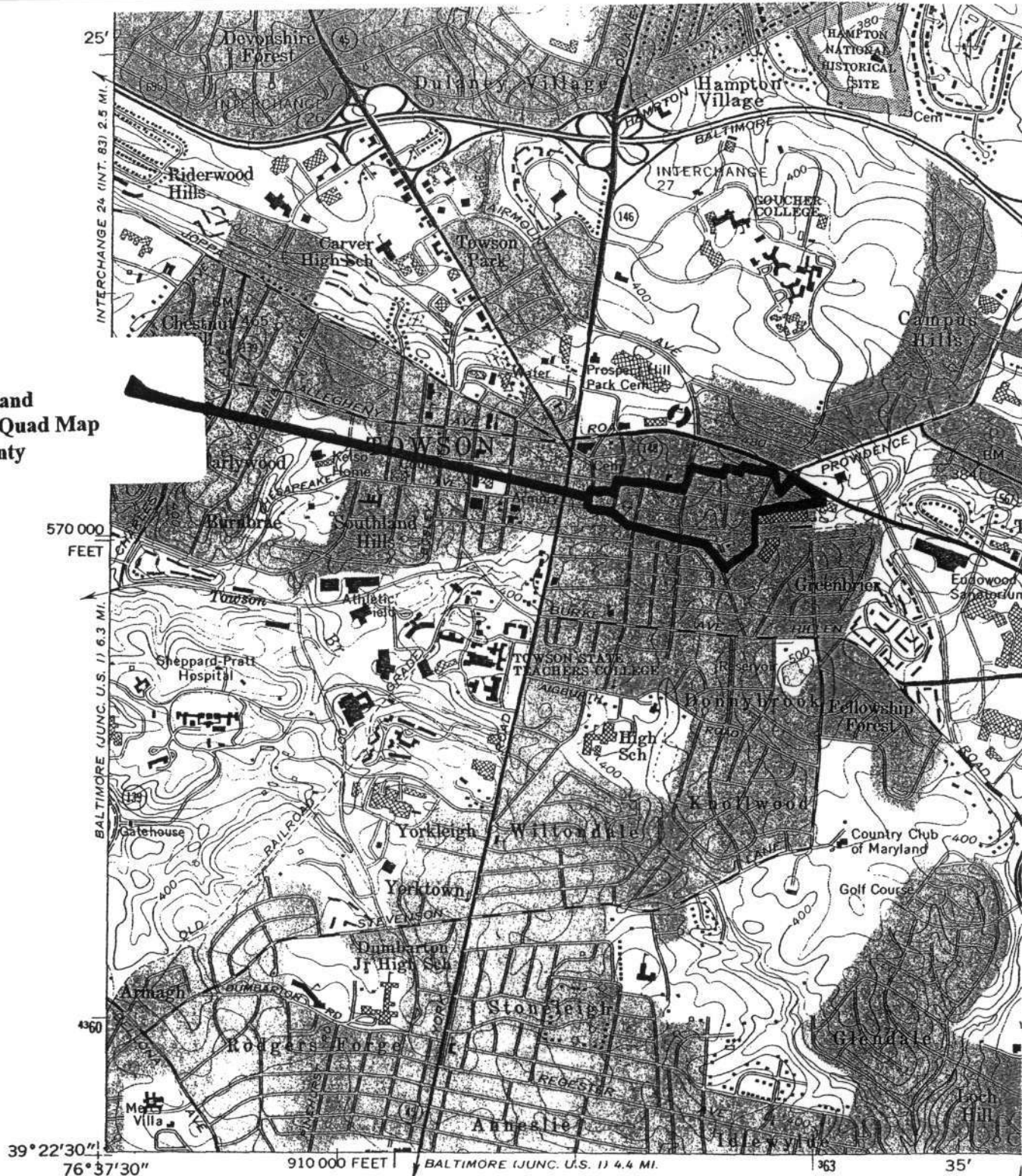
Legend

- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Study Area Boundary
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1001

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

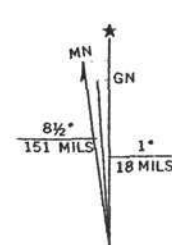
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1001

PARLOR, 413 JEFFERSON AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1001

PARSONAGE, 413 JEFFERSON AVENUE

BAUTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO

SOUTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1001
PARSONAGE, 413 JEFFERSON AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES
10/2001
MD SHPD
NORTHWEST CORNER
3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE AFRICAN UNION METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

411 Jefferson ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the African Union Methodist Church Telephone #: 828-6411

STREET & NUMBER

411 Jefferson Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 125:118

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

D

BA-1001 - 413 Jefferson - Parsonage

1881 and 1906

D

S

C

The front cross-gabled section of this two-story frame house is an addition to a four room house. The steep cross-gable contains a triangular window. Now attached to the St. James AUMP Church the parsonage was once separated by an alley.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint James AUMP parsonage began as a two-story frame separated from the church's south side by a narrow alley. It is believed to have been built in 1881, when the original church was built. Its gable roof runs east-west. The two first floor rooms are separated by a stove flue and an air enclosed straight run stair which turns the corner at its head. The west wall of the west room has a stove flue, and is followed by a later shed addition. The original out house still stands at the northwest corner. The second floor also has two rooms. All the windows contain 6/6 sashes.

A two-story addition to the east, cutting off the alley outlet and directly adjoining the church was added later probably when the church was enlarged. This section has a north-south gable roof with a steep tiny cross gable containing a triangular window. 2/2 sash windows light one room on each floor. A one-story porch runs along the east facade with its central entrance. The house is covered in the same grey asbestos shingles as the church and rests on a similar stone foundation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

(see inventory, Saint James Church)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

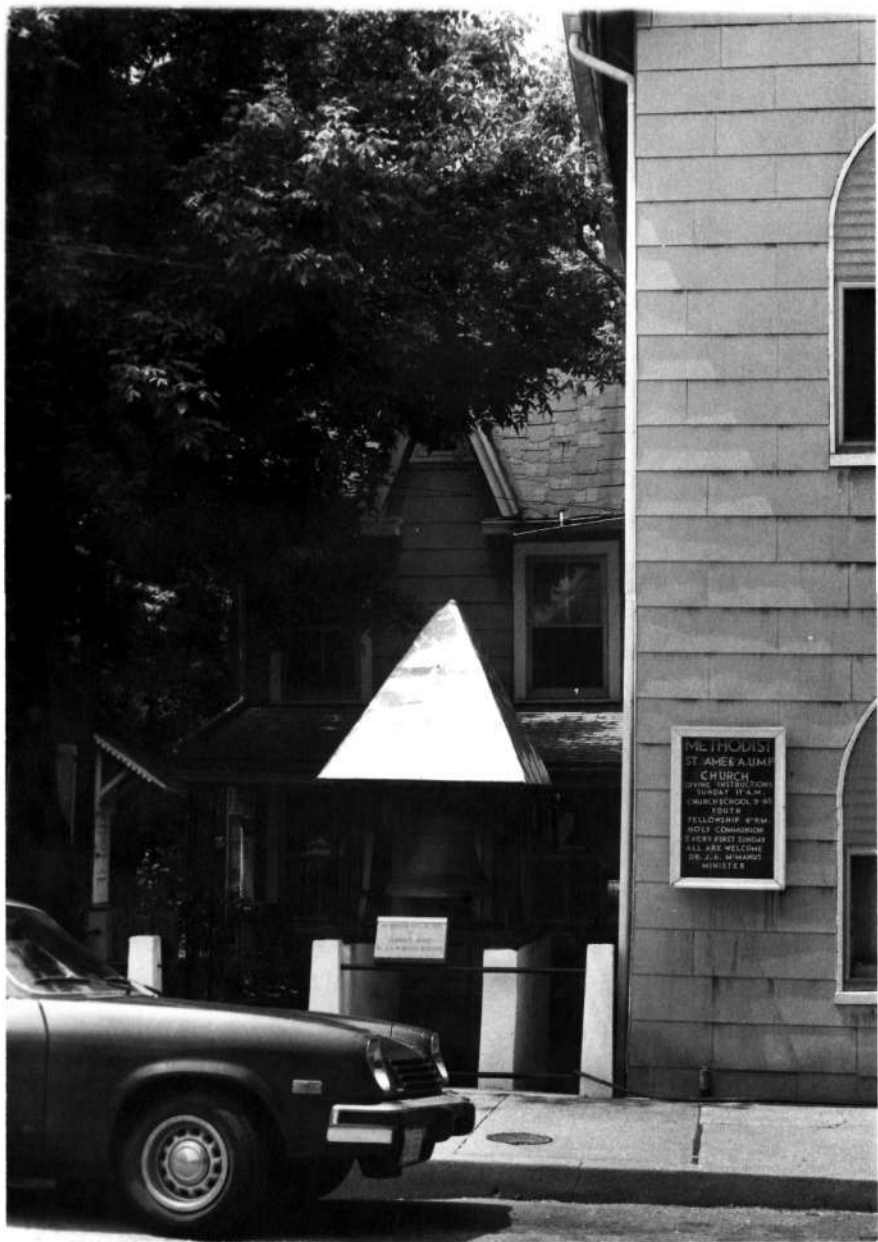
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE		DATE
Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect		7/77
ORGANIZATION		DATE
Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca		823-8870
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
600 W. Chesapeake Ave.		
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
Towson Md. 21204		

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1001

St. James AUMP Church Parsonage

413 Jefferson Ave.

Towson, Md.

east

Merry Stinson

1977